

INTERVIEW A JUDGE OR OTHER LEGAL PROFESSIONAL- 4TH GRADE

INTERVIEWING JUDGES AND OTHER LEGAL PROFESSIONALS WILL ENHANCE STUDENT UNDERSTANDING OF THE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF GOVERNMENT. AS JUDGES ARE ELECTED OFFICIALS, THIS ACTIVITY IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO STANDARD 4.5.4, BUT SHOULD Elicit INFORMATION HELPFUL TO UNDERSTANDING KEY CONCEPTS OF 4.5.

MANY JUDGES ENJOY TALKING TO STUDENTS ABOUT THE COURTS AND THEIR ROLE AS JUDGES. ETHICAL GUIDELINES PREVENT JUDGES FROM TALKING ABOUT MATTERS PENDING BEFORE THEM, BUT JUDGES ARE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE A JUDGE OR OTHER COURT PERSONNEL AND WHAT IT IS LIKE TO WORK FOR THE COURTS. OTHER LEGAL PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS COURT CLERKS, COURT REPORTERS AND BAILIFFS MAY ALSO BE WILLING TO TALK TO STUDENTS. THESE INTERVIEWS DO NOT HAVE TO TAKE PLACE AT THE COURTHOUSE. ANOTHER OPTION IS TO INVITE LAW RELATED PROFESSIONALS INTO THE CLASSROOM TO SPEAK TO STUDENTS, USING THESE OR OTHER QUESTIONS SELECTED BY THE CLASS. IN ADDITION TO LEARNING ABOUT THE COURTS, THESE INTERVIEWS CAN SERVE AS AN INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS AND COURT WORK-RELATED POSSIBILITIES.

WHEN YOU CONTACT YOUR COURT TO REQUEST A VISIT, BE SPECIFIC ABOUT YOUR REQUEST. FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT CATEGORIES OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS DO YOU WANT TO INTERVIEW? WHAT KINDS OF QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT TO ASK? SOME QUESTION IDEAS FOR THESE INTERVIEWS ARE PROVIDED BELOW.

GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR ALL INTERVIEWEES

WHAT IS THE TITLE OF YOUR JOB?

COULD YOU PLEASE TELL US HOW YOU GOT YOUR POSITION AS _____?

WHAT IS YOUR DAY LIKE?

WHAT SCHOOLING OR TRAINING WAS NEEDED?

WERE ANY SPECIAL TESTS REQUIRED?

HOW DOES A PERSON ENTER YOUR PROFESSION?

WHAT LED YOU TO CHOOSE YOUR PROFESSION?

DO YOU USE ANY SPECIAL TYPE OF EQUIPMENT IN YOUR WORK? IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN IT TO US.

DOES YOUR PROFESSION REQUIRE YOU TO WEAR A UNIFORM OF SOME KIND? WHY?

WHY IS YOUR JOB IMPORTANT?

WOULD YOU CHOOSE THIS PROFESSION AGAIN IF YOU HAD THE CHANCE? WHY?

IN WHAT WAYS MAY YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES CHANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

DOES YOUR CAREER EVER PUT YOU IN ANY KIND OF DANGER? IF SO, CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE US AN EXAMPLE?

WHAT HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING CASE YOU HAVE WORKED ON?

IF A YOUNG PERSON WANTED TO GO INTO YOUR PROFESSION, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE?